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September 3, 2009

Lester Snow
Department of Water Resources
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001
Email: DWR_IRWM@water.ca.gov

Re: Request for reconsideration of the RAP denial of the LA Gateway IRWM JPA
Authority (Gateway Authority)

Dear Director Snow:

I hope you will reconsider the Department's preliminary rejection of the Gateway IRWM Authority's application for Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) status.

It seems clear to me the Gateway IRWM Authority does meet the qualification for a RWMG as defined in the State Water Code, and the JPA was formed at the direction of the Gateway Council of Governments (COG). I support this action and believe the intent of the locally elected officials to represent the people of the Gateway Cities is undermined by DWR's preliminary decision.

The Gateway Authority has a successful record of effective governance and integrated planning for regional water needs. Currently, the Gateway Authority secured a \$10 million grant to improve water quality in the Los Angeles River and is administering a Metals TMDL monitoring and implementation plan in the San Gabriel River. The vast area of the Gateway Region is home to more than two million people. It also represents the highest concentration of minority and disadvantaged communities in Southern California. To equitably address regional water needs, it is imperative that the region maintain strong local leadership in water management issues.

Please don't hesitate to contact me should you need any further information as the Department makes its final position on this issue of great importance to my district.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bonnie Lowenthal". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bonnie" being more prominent.

BONNIE LOWENTHAL
Assemblymember, 54th District